



# **MSc Strategic IT Management Programme Handbook**

Published March 2020

Version 7

## Introduction to the Programme

Welcome to the MSc Strategic IT Management programme. This handbook provides you with information about the structure of your programme.

The programme is made up of the seven core modules listed in the table below. An outline of the content of each of the modules and the assessment methods used can be found in the Module Descriptor section of iLearn.

### MSc Strategic IT Management Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Type (Core/Option)
COM7001	IS and Business Strategy Alignment	20	Core
BUS7008	Business Plan Development	20	Core
PRM7004	Project and Portfolio Management	20	Core
BUS7010	Relationship Management	20	Core
COM7007	IS Governance	20	Core
COM7008	Cloud Systems and Applications	20	Core
RES7001	Research Project	60	Core

Please note that modules may not be delivered in this order; please refer to your course timetable.

#### Student Loans Company Funded Students

If you have been granted a postgraduate loan from the Student Loans Company, you must progress at an appropriate pace to complete within two years. Arden University is required to make annual reports to the Student Loans Company regarding your progress. If you fall behind, or if you decide you would prefer to study at a slower pace, you may transfer to the Flexible Distance Learning route (see below). However, if you transfer to the more flexible route, you will not be eligible for any continued loan payments from the Student Loans Company.

#### Flexible Distance Learning Students

If you have chosen the flexible distance learning route and have not received a postgraduate loan from the Student Loans Company, you have the flexibility to plan your own pace of study. Postgraduate degrees usually take around two to three years to complete depending on how many modules you study each year. In order to achieve this it is recommended that you aim to complete at least 60 credits each year, equivalent to three 20-credit modules. You will have a maximum of five years to complete the programme (from the date you first started).

#### **Arden University Assessment Regulations**

Students will be assessed in accordance with the standard Arden University assessment regulations which can be found on the Arden University website <http://arden.ac.uk/>

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>1. Target Award</b>	MSc
<b>2. Programme Title</b>	<b>MSc Strategic IT Management</b>
<b>3. Exit Awards</b>	PG Diploma in Strategic IT Management PG Certificate in Strategic IT Management
<b>4. Programme Leader(s)</b>	Mohammed Rehman
<b>5. Delivery Model</b>	Online Blended learning delivery by Arden University staff and supported via the VLE.
<b>6. Start date</b>	January 2017
<b>7. Programme Accredited by</b> <i>(PSRB or other, if applicable)</i>	
<b>8. UCAS Code</b> <i>(If applicable)</i>	
<b>9. Relevant QAA subject benchmark statement</b>	QAA Master's Degrees in Computing (2011) QAA General Master's Degrees (2015)

<b>10. Programme Aims</b>
<p>The aim of the Arden University MSc Strategic IT Management programme is to provide a distinctive, inter-disciplinary and integrative educational programme aimed primarily at individuals who are either employed in or are desirous of entering management or strategic roles within the computing sector. The programmes are designed to expose programme participants to a range of relevant topics relating to information management within a computing context.</p> <p>Online teaching materials are derived from established academic research in order to develop critical powers of analysis, reflection and the further development of interpersonal skills in preparation for management roles.</p> <p>Programme participants will build on their existing understanding of the management of computing projects and organisations in a way that allows them to relate this to a range of contemporary management and computing ideas and practice within a global context as well as developing skills such as information security, enterprise design and infrastructure management. This is achieved through critical thinking, creativity and personal development.</p> <p>In particular, based upon the established tasks and responsibilities associated with graduates, the purpose of the programme is to enable students to demonstrate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate the use of an ethical IT strategy for a given organisation</li> <li>Apply innovative approaches in the management of Information Systems departments</li> <li>Embed a supportive approach to the management of customer-supplier relationships and the customer experience.</li> <li>An critical understanding of how to take ownership of service level agreements and complex IS contacts.</li> <li>Evaluate information systems management aims and communicate them to senior general management as part of defining overall information systems strategy</li> <li>A critical understanding of the approaches to be taken when handling the implementation of change management</li> </ul>

Evaluate the requirements for reliability, confidentiality, security and integrity in information systems.

An ability to evaluate the impact of project and portfolio management on the operations of information management and IT operations.

A critical understanding of the implementation of an ethical information systems strategy.

Arden Values Mapping: the table below identifies how programme outcomes (listed within section 11) meet provide for full coverage of Arden University Values.

	Knowledge & Understanding	Intellectual Thinking	Practical Skills	Transferable Skills
We Support People	A4	B1	C6	D4, D6
We Do the Right Thing	A5, A7	B1, B2, B3, B5	C2, C4, C5	D3, D5, D6
We Innovate	A2	B4, B5	C1, C3, C5	D4, D6
We Take Ownership	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7	B1, B5	C1, C2, C3, C4, C5	D4, D5, D6

<b>11. Intended programme learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated</b>		
<b>MSc (180 credits)</b>		
<b>11a. Knowledge and understanding</b>	<b>The means by which these outcomes are achieved</b>	<b>The means by which these outcomes are demonstrated</b>
<p>A1 – Critically evaluate the role of Information Systems on the generation and fulfilment of overall business strategy</p> <p>A2 – Analyse business planning methods and generate innovative IT solutions to meet planning needs.</p> <p>A3 – Evaluate the implications of project and portfolio management on the fulfilment of IT projects in the workplace</p> <p>A4 – Develop a critical understanding of approaches involved in the development of supportive working relationships to enhance stakeholder relationships in a computing context</p> <p>A5 – Critically apply ethical approaches to the development and management of Information Systems governance within an organisation.</p> <p>A6 – Evaluate the implications of cloud systems and associated applications for information systems in the workplace.</p>	<p>Learning and Teaching methods and strategy:</p> <p>Acquisition of knowledge and understanding (A1 – A7) is through an integrated learning and teaching pedagogy that includes both asynchronous and synchronous activity. That is:</p> <p>Asynchronous</p> <p>Independent and directed student study, supported throughout by comprehensive online multi-media teaching materials and resources accesses through our VLE</p> <p>Guided group / project based work</p> <p>Discussion forums where students discuss and critically engage with themes emerging from the materials they engage with, following the posing of questions or propositions, case studies or similar by either tutor or students themselves</p> <p>Podcasts and narrated PowerPoints</p> <p>Synchronous</p> <p>Online seminars facilitated by VOIPs where theory and practice are integrated.</p>	<p>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through in-module assessments of portfolio submissions, presentations, time-constrained examinations, and report based assignments.</p> <p>Formative assessments are the precursor to the summative assessments. Appropriate and diverse formative assessments are provided for students and are communicated to them via a clear overview to be found in the assessment brief for each module.</p>

<p>A7 – Undertake self-led research into computing issues in the workplace demonstrating an ethical approach to the application of research principles</p>	<p>Live chats</p> <p>Based upon the profile of our typical student body, our strategy enables students to engage with a variety of learning tools that best meet their learning styles, overall objectives and personal circumstances.</p> <p>Independent study is the cornerstone of the learner experience supported by engagement with the specialist tutor and peer engagement.</p> <p>There is a requirement for written work at all levels including reports, essays, practical tasks, developed targeted plans etc., and our formative assessment policy informs how feedback is supplied by tutors at the draft assessment phase.</p>	
<p><b>11b. Intellectual (thinking) skills</b></p>	<p><b>The means by which these outcomes are achieved</b></p>	<p><b>The means by which these outcomes are demonstrated</b></p>
<p>B1 – Individually and collaboratively analyse complex problems and requirements and systematically synthesise and evaluate a range of potential solutions.</p> <p>B2 - Demonstrate systematic, ethical and creative approaches to problem solving, showing initiative and originality.</p> <p>B3 - Systematically collect and use data from a wide range of sources to synthesise and evaluate effective decision alternatives in relation to design, construction or management of Information Systems.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills (B1 – B5) are developed throughout the programme by the methods and strategies outlined in section A, above.</p> <p>Specific modules support the development of quantitative and qualitative analysis, and the development of criticality and self-reflective skills. In addition, the student’s thinking skills will be evident in a summative assessment process which requires and rewards learners for the demonstration of creative thinking and problem solving, analysis, judgement and self-reflection in the development of contextually relevant solutions, and a willingness to explore and engage with a range of media.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through a combination of in-course formative exercises and summative assignments, including the submission of portfolios, self-reflective evidence, statistical analyses, qualitative judgements, and research reports/dissertation.</p>

<p>B4 - Synthesise and apply innovative methodologies, techniques, tools and technologies from a range of fields within computing to provide complete solution to novel or complex problems.</p> <p>B5 - Utilise judgement to draw appropriate conclusions and make innovative recommendations.</p>	<p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by undertaking further independent study and research.</p> <p>Students will be required to demonstrate skill development both individually and collaboratively through the collection of information, analysis and evaluation of findings and presentation of solutions.</p>	
<p><b>11c. Practical skills</b></p>	<p><b>The means by which these outcomes are achieved</b></p>	<p><b>The means by which these outcomes are demonstrated</b></p>
<p>C1 - Shows technical expertise, making effective and efficient use of skills and adapting to new situations.</p> <p>C2 - Effectively and efficiently undertake a project within an organisation demonstrating effective individual working skills</p> <p>C3 - Effectively identify relevant information, software and data strategies in an organisation to enable innovation</p> <p>C4 - Articulate reasoned evidence to justify conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>C5 - Demonstrate flexibility in adapting to novel and complex contexts.</p>	<p>Practical and professional skills are employed in the production of solutions to real life situations developed through set briefs, exercises and practical activities. The important modern day skills of managing projects, working within differing organisational and national cultures are provided by specific modules, as are specific inputs with an emphasis upon practical functional decision making skills related to market planning and strategy, market intelligence and communications; managing others; and managing knowledge in addition to specific practical skills commensurate with the chosen pathway.</p> <p>Practical skills are further developed and integrated through a series of in-course online activities and projects intended to test skills acquired. Group forums provide opportunities to discuss ideas, progress, the work of others and the strengths and weakness in the work presented and particularly support the development of C4. Activities are provided so that</p>	<p>To support the development of practical skills students must supply worked materials and evidence in support of their assignments. Critical reasoning, good presentation and sound evidence trails in all assignments are rewarded. Assessment briefs include a variety of commercial and geographical contextual setting. Students receive feedback on all activities and assignments which includes practical examples for improvement in the application of theory to practice to help them improve both aspects of their skill base.</p>

	students can work independently to consolidate their knowledge and grasp of practical skills. The in-course activities and assessment process in the final year particularly emphasise the acquisition of C2 and C3 with specific modules devised to highlight the practical differences in management skills required in differing contexts.	
<b>11c. Transferrable skills</b>	<b>The means by which these outcomes are achieved</b>	<b>The means by which these outcomes are demonstrated</b>
<p>D1 - Systematically and competently collate, synthesise and communicate complex information effectively</p> <p>D2 - Critically evaluate and use relevant research methods, both qualitative and quantitative.</p> <p>D3 - Demonstrate a reflective approach to work and the capacity to take responsibility for engaging in self-directed life-long learning for professional development.</p> <p>D4 - Work autonomously and collaboratively demonstrating the highest professional and ethical standards</p> <p>D5 - Manage time effectively by learning to plan and prioritise work in order to meet specified deadlines.</p>	<p>Personal responsibility becomes an increasingly important skill as students' progress, culminating in the writing of the Dissertation.</p> <p>As the programme progresses work becomes more complex and students are tested on their abilities to respond positively to feedback from a variety of audiences, as well as to manage increasingly large workloads. Students are required to complete a number of assignments and a 'research artefact' that rewards independence originality, and critical enquiry, and which further enhance communication and self-reflective skills.</p>	<p>To develop transferable skills all assignments must meet time deadlines and word count guidelines. All assessed work must be submitted independently even where group activity has been an element of the process. Students must take responsibility for their own work. All assignments require students to adopt a spirit of critical enquiry and self-reflection which is rewarded in marking guides. These guides are shared with students.</p>



D6 - Learn independently and collaboratively in the spirit of critical and self-reflective enquiry.		
---	--	--

Exit Award	Knowledge & Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Practical Skills	Transferrable Skills
Post Graduate Diploma (120 credits)	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6	B1, B2, B3, B4	C1, C3, C5	D1, D3, D4, D6
Post Graduate Certificate (60 credits)	A1, A2, A3	B1, B2, B3	C1, C3	D3, D6

## 12. Graduate Attributes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated

### Graduate Attributes

The concept of the Arden University Graduate, based upon the definition of 'graduate attribute' by Bowden et al (2000) has been developed around 6 attributes.

**Lifelong Learning:** Manage employability, utilising the skills of personal development and planning in different contexts to contribute to society and the workplace.

**Reflective Practitioner:** Undertake critical analysis and reach reasoned and evidenced decisions, contribute problem-solving skills to find and innovate in solutions

**Professional Skills:** Perform effectively within the professional environment. Work within a team, demonstrating interpersonal skills such as effective listening, negotiating, persuading and presentation. Be flexible and adaptable to changes within the professional environment

**Discipline Expertise:** Knowledge and understanding of chosen field. Possess a range of skills to operate within this sector, have a keen awareness of current developments in working practice being well positioned to respond to change.

**Responsible Global Citizenship:** Understand global issues and their place in a globalised economy, ethical decision-making and accountability. Adopt self-awareness, openness and sensitivity to diversity in culture.

**Effective Communication:** Communicate effectively both, verbally and in writing, using a range of media widely used in relevant professional context. Be IT, digitally and information literate.

**Discipline Expertise:** Knowledge and understanding of chosen field. Possess a range of skills to operate within this sector, have a keen awareness of current developments in working practice being well positioned to respond to change.

### The means by which these outcomes are achieved and demonstrated

All six attributes are relevant to this programme, however, five will be developed throughout Level 7 of the MSc Engineering Management where they are integrated into all modules and assessed via

unit study tasks (individual and group work) and through summative assessment tasks. Some graduate attributes are assessed in more than one module allowing for greater development of skills.

#### Graduate Attribute Mapping

Module	Graduate Attribute
Business Plan Development	Lifelong Learning: Manage employability, utilising the skills of personal development and planning in different contexts to contribute to society and the workplace.
Relationship Management	Reflective Practitioner: Undertake critical analysis and reach reasoned and evidenced decisions, contribute problem-solving skills to find and innovate in solutions
Cloud Systems and Applications	Professional Skills: Perform effectively within the professional environment. Work within a team, demonstrating interpersonal skills such as effective listening, negotiating, persuading and presentation. Be flexible and adaptable to changes within the professional environment.
Research Project Project and Portfolio Management	Discipline Expertise: Knowledge and understanding of chosen field. Possess a range of skills to operate within this sector, have a keen awareness of current developments in working practice being well positioned to respond to change.
IS Governance	Responsible Global Citizenship: Understand global issues and their place in a globalised economy, ethical decision-making and accountability. Adopt self-awareness, openness and sensitivity to diversity in culture.
IS and Business Strategy Alignment	Effective Communication: Communicate effectively both, verbally and in writing, using a range of media widely used in relevant professional context. Be IT, digitally and information literate.

### 13. Learning and teaching methods and strategies

#### Distance Learning

Acquisition of all learning outcomes is via engagement with the online module learning material and the online tutoring and programme participant support mechanisms, both of which are delivered via Arden University's ilearn platform (a moodle-based system). The learning material comprises purpose-written self-contained lessons with frequent activities and feedback to generate learning and reinforce the knowledge acquisition through frequent application of learning to specific examples.

Embedded within the text are links to further reading and appropriate websites. Feedback within the learning material is provided to allow programme participants to check their understanding with that

of the tutor. Additionally, group learning activities direct programme participants to the tutor-facilitated discussion forums where they engage in discussion with their peers and receive formative feedback from the module tutor.

Each of the 20 credit modules provide programme participants with an understanding of key theoretical and practical management issues, debates and academic informed literatures.

Teaching/learning methods adopted are transferrable across modules and are similar across modules and include online class discussions, exercises/case studies and group discussions.

For each subject being taught a programme of structured online learning activities using both formative and summative assessment is applied. The emphasis is on action learning through the mediation of the module leader for each module.

Learning and Teaching activities are:

### **Asynchronous**

Independent and directed student study, supported throughout by comprehensive online multi-media teaching materials and resources accesses through our Virtual Learning Environment

Guided group / project based work

Research tasks

Discussion forums where students discuss and critically engage with themes emerging from the online materials they engage with, following the posing of questions or propositions, case studies or similar by either tutor or students themselves

Podcasts and narrated PowerPoints

### **Synchronous**

Online seminars facilitated by VOIPs where theory and practice are integrated

Live chats

Based upon the profile of our typical student body, our strategy enables students to engage with a variety of learning tools that best meet their learning styles, overall objectives and personal circumstances. Independent study is the cornerstone of the learner experience, supported by subject specialist engagement with the tutor and peer engagement.

### **Blended Learning**

A strategy which incorporates elements from the above criteria plus the support of face to face input will be utilised.

A-synchronous learning will be supported by in class face to face lectures, seminars and workshops. Students will have full access to the ilearn platform and all programme resources within it. Formative opportunities will be available in class and also via Adobe hosted seminars.

Students will also have access to learning resources at each partner institution.

Student leaning will be supported and nurtured at our partner institutions by our tutor team and dedicated centre administrator and on line via our student support team.

Summative submissions will all be made via the Turnitinn platform.

#### **14. Assessment methods and strategies**

The assessment process involves both formative and summative elements and is continuing in nature.

There will be a focus on encouraging students to apply their knowledge to practical situations. A significant part of this comes from the Dissertation module. Here students will be required to identify a topic of interest to them, which falls within the encompassing field of management. Students will explore this, and will apply their research to the topic, putting forward recommendations which are of practical benefit to the organisation.

The approach to coursework assignments will be to encourage students to apply their knowledge to organisations or case study data sets. This could be achieved through the use of case studies, but will also involve employees applying information and approaches to their own organisations, or an organisation with which they are familiar.

The assessment designed for each module reflects the intentions of that module and will measure the identified learning outcomes. A variety of assessment strategies will be used to reflect and test the achievement of the learning outcomes. These are detailed within each module and mapped in the table below. Assessment questions and cases are seen to be dynamic and are reviewed quarterly in order to maintain rigour and reflect changes in professional focus and practice.

There is a requirement for written work at all levels including reports, essays, developed plans, portfolios of work etc. and our assessment policy informs how feedback is supplied by tutors at the formative and summative assessment stage. Critical analysis is encouraged at all levels culminating in a Dissertation.

#### **15. Employability**

Entrants to this programme are highly likely to be in work, (be it Full or part Time). The MSc in Strategic IT Management is designed to offer the degree of flexibility required to ensure that even those employed in full time positions have the maximum opportunity to fulfil their programme of study. The programme aims to develop skills and knowledge such that graduates can confidently enter the computing management environment or can improve their existing career prospects within it. This degree develops a range of transferrable skills and provides opportunities for these to be evidenced. In particular, the final research project provides the ability to demonstrate higher level academic skills.

The distributed nature of Arden University students makes conventional careers support difficult but the use of the Abintegro provider allows us to offer a range of support in career development and there are opportunities for students to purchase more specialist support if required.

The addition of imbedded graduate attributes adds value to the qualification in terms of providing industry ready graduating students.

#### **16. Entry Requirements**

Arden University is keen to ensure that the programme is available to all those who can benefit from it.

Normally entry is via:

A degree equivalent to UK second class honours standard,  
English ability equivalent to IELTS 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element), where the medium of undergraduate study was not English;

Applicants with existing postgraduate computing management awards may be eligible for entry with advanced standing and will be considered through the APL process.

Applicants who have substantial managerial experience (typically 5 years) and are able to demonstrate via references and supporting curriculum vitae an ability to successfully complete the programme may be admitted where they do not possess degree equivalent qualifications. It is not intended to offer exemptions based on experiential learning.

## 17. Programme Structure

### MSc Strategic IT Management

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Type (Core/Option)	Assessment Method
COM7001D	IS and Business Strategy Alignment	20	Core	Report and Individual Presentation
BUS7008D	Business Plan Development	20	Core	Report
PRM7004D	Project and Portfolio Management	20	Core	Report
BUS7010D	Relationship Management	20	Core	Report and Live Session
COM7007D	IS Governance	20	Core	Report, Presentation and Peer Engagement
COM7008D	Cloud Systems and Applications	20	Core	2 Part Coursework
RES7001D	Research Project	60	Core	Research Proposal and Dissertation or Journal Formatted Article & Viva

18. Subject:	I260 (Data Management),
--------------	-------------------------

**Mapping of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes and Modules**  
**MSc Strategic IT Management**

Programme Learning Outcomes		Module Type (Compulsory (C) or Option (O))	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
			Modules																						
Level 7	IS and Business Strategy Alignment	C	X							X				X	X		X	X		X		X		X	X
	Business Plan Development	C		X						X	X	X						X		X			X		
	Project and Portfolio Management	C			X						X		X	X				X						X	
	Relationship Management	C				X				X			X	X	X			X		X		X		X	
	IS Governance	C					X			X	X	X						X	X	X		X	X	X	X
	Cloud Systems and Applications	C						X				X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X			
	Research Project	C							X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X